

EXTRA INFORMATION

12/1/08

December 1, 2008

8

TO: Grace Arthur, Mass Highway Department

FROM: Lauren S. Rosenzweig, Chairperson, Acton Board of Selectmen

RE: Comments on Route 2 Rotary Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Arthur:

We are writing to share our input on the proposed alternatives for the Route 2 Rotary Project as it goes into the Environmental Review Process. The Route 2 Rotary has a major impact on the commute for Acton residents who are traveling east on Route 2 and on Route 2A/119.

After hearing your excellent presentation and receiving comments from our engineering and planning staff we would like to express our support for the following options:

- 1) Given the choice of Alternative 3 vs. Alternative 5, we support Alternative 5 which has a right hand loop entrance on to Route 2, because it will result in less queuing for traffic coming from Route 2A/119 on to Route 2 East. Both options should ease the traffic congestion experienced in the late afternoon as commuters return to Acton on Route 2 and 2A/119.
- 2) For the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail we support the tunnel option as opposed to the bridge option as it preserves the open field views as you enter Acton. However, if it is determined that the tunnel option is not viable, we request that the bridge design be of materials and color that will be the least obtrusive to the views.

We thank both you and Earth Tech for taking the time to present to us and to answer our questions as well as those of the public and our professional staff.

We hope to remain in close communication throughout this project.

**TOWN OF ACTON
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Date: November 21, 2008

To: Steven Ledoux, Town Manager

From: Engineering and Planning Departments
Bruce M. Stamski, P.E., Town Engineer/Director of Public Works
Roland Bartl, AICP, Planning Director

Re: Review of MassHighway's Alternatives for
Reconstruction At The Concord Rotary
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Crossing Route 2

We reviewed the information submitted to the Board on 11/17/08. In addition we had a telephone conference with Mr. Paul Carter of Earth Tech, the project manager.

Reconstruction at the Concord Rotary

There are two viable options being considered. Option 3 requires Route 2A/119 traffic to queue up for a left hand turn onto Route 2 east while Option 5 provides a right turn ramp to accomplish this turn. All other turning movements are the same for both options. It appears both options will reduce cut through traffic on Acton's streets and have a similar degree of environmental impact. Given this, we determined our recommendation on which alternative provided the least amount of queuing on Route 2A/119. Option 5 clearly is the better alternative in this respect. This was confirmed by Mr. Carter of Earth Tech. We recommend the Selectmen consider supporting Option 5 in that it is the better of the two options for traffic flow.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Crossing Route 2

OPTIONS:

Bridge over Route 2 with the Rail Trail or Tunnel under Route 2 with the Rail Trail.

Mr. Carter said there were some safety concerns with policing the tunnel and that the tunnel will cost 2-3 million dollars more than the bridge because it requires raising the grade of Route 2..

We recommend the Selectmen support the tunnel option as it preserves the open field views as you enter Acton. However, if the cost differential can not be overcome, we recommend the bridge design be of materials and color that will be the least obtrusive to the views.

We recommend the Selectmen support a connection from the Rail Trail to the School Street Athletic Fields as part of this project.

As you are aware, The Acton Historical Commission has filed a CPA request for the Wright-Holden Farmstead which is adjacent to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and Route 2. The design of the Rail Trail/ Route 2 crossing should consider this historic property. We would recommend the Selectmen seek funds for restoration as part of this project.